Anno primo Iacobi Regis.

An Act for the charitable reliefe and ordering of persons infected with the Plague.

FOraſmuch as the Inhabitants of diuers Cities, Boroughs, townes corporate, and of other Pariſhes and places being viſited with the Plague, are found to be vnable to relieue the poorer ſort of ſuch people ſo infected, who of neceſſitie muſt be by ſome charitable courſe prouided for, leſt they ſhould wander abroad, and thereby infect others: And foraſmuch as diuers perſons infected with that diſeaſe, and others inhabiting in places infected, aſwell poore people and vnable to relieue themſelues, that are carefully prouided for, as other which of themſelues are of abilitie, being commanded by the Magiſtrate or Officer, of or within the place where the Infection ſhall bee, to keep their houſes, or otherwiſe to ſeparate themſelues from company, for the auoiding of further Infection, doe notwithſtanding very dangerouſly and diſorderly demeane themſelues:

Taxing others for the reliefe of the ſicke of the Plague.

Be it therefore enacted by the authoritie of this preſent Parliament, That the Maior, Bailiffes, head Officers, and Juſtices of the Peace, of euery Citie, Borough, Towne corporate, and places Priuiledged, where any Maior, and Baliffes, head Officers, or Juſtices of Peace are or ſhall be, or any two of them, ſhall haue power and authority from time to time, to tare and aſſeſſe all and euery Inhabitant, and all Houſes of habitation, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments within the ſaid City, Borough, Towne corporate, and places Priuiledged, or the Liberties or Precincts thereof, at ſuch reaſonable tares and paiments, as they ſhall thinke fit for the reaſonable reliefe of ſuch perſons infected, or inhabiting in houſes and places infected in the ſame Cities, boroughes, and Townes corporate, and places Priuiledged, and from time to time leuie the ſame tares, of the Goods of euery perſon refuſing or neglecting to pay the ſaid Tares, by Warrant vnder the Hand and Seale of the Maior and bailifs, and head Officers aforeſaid, or two ſuch Juſtices of Peace, to bee directed to any perſon or perſons for the execution thereof. And if the party to whom ſuch Warrant is or ſhall be directed, ſhall not finde any Goods to leuie the ſame, and the party tared ſhall refuſe to pay the ſame Tare, That then vpon returne thereof the ſaid Maior, bailifs, head Officers or Juſtices of Peace, or any two of them, ſhall by like Warrant vnder their hands and Seales, cauſe the ſame perſon ſo tared to bee arreſted and committed to the Gaole, without baile or Mainepriſe, vntill he ſhall ſatisfie the ſame taxation, and the arrerages thereof.

The Inhabitants vnable to relieue the Infected.

And if the Inhabitants of any ſuch Citie, borough, Towne corporate, or place priuiledged, ſhall finde themſelues vnable to relieue their ſaid poore Infected perſons, and others as aforeſaid, That then vpon Certificate thereof by the Maior, bailife, head Officers, and other the ſaid Juſtices of Peace or any two of them, to the Juſtices of Peace of the Countie of or neere to the ſaid City, borough, Towne corporate, or priuiledged place ſo infected, or any two of them to be made, the ſaid Juſtices of or neer the ſaid County or any two of them ſhall or may tare and aſſeſſe the Inhabitants of the County within fiue miles of the ſaid place Infected, at ſuch reaſonable and weekely Tares and Rates as they ſhall thinke fit to be leuied, by Warrant from any ſuch two Juſtices of peace, of or neer the County, by the ſale of Goods, and in default thereof, by impriſonment of the bodie of the party tared, as aforeſaid.

And if any ſuch Infection ſhall be in any Borough, Towne corporate, or priuiledged place, where there are or ſhall be no Iuſtices of peace, or in any Village or Hamlet within any County, That then it ſhall or may be lawfull for any two Iuſtices of peace of the ſaid County, wherein the ſaid place infected is or ſhall be, to Taxe and Aſſeſſe the inhabitants of the ſaid County, within fiue miles of the ſaid place infected, at ſuch reaſonable weekely taxes and rates, as they ſhall thinke fit for the reaſonable reliefe of the ſaid places infected, to be leuied by Warrant from the ſaid Iuſtices of peace of the ſame County by ſale of goods, and in default thereof by impriſonment of the body of euery party ſo taxed, as aforeſaid: The ſame taxes made by the ſaid Iuſtices of peace of the County, for the reliefe of ſuch Cities, Boroughes, Townes corporate, and places priuiledged, where there are no Iuſtices of peace, to be diſpoſed as they ſhall thinke fit. And where there are Iuſtices of peace, Then in ſuch ſort as to the Maior, Bailifs, head Officers, and Iuſtices of peace there, or any two of them ſhall ſeeme fit and conuenient. All which taxes and rates made within any ſuch City, Borough, Towne corporate, or place priuiledged, ſhall be certified at the nert quarter Seſſions to be holden within the ſame City, Borough, Town corporate, or place priuiledged, And the ſaid Taxes and Rates made within any part of the ſaid County, ſhal in like ſort be certified at the nert quarter Seſſions to be holden in and for the ſaid County, And that if the Iuſtices of peace at ſuch quarter Seſſions reſpectiuely, or the more part of them ſhall think fit the ſaid taxe or rate ſhould continue, or be enlarged, or extended to any other parts of the County, or otherwiſe determined, then the ſame to be ſo enlarged, extended or determined, increaſed, or taxed and leuied, in maner and forme aforeſaid, as to the ſaid Iuſtices at the Quarter Seſſions reſpectiuely ſhall be thought fit & conuenient, And euery Conſtable, & other officer that ſhall wilfully make default in leuying ſuch mony, as they ſhall be commanded by the ſaid Warrant or Warrants, ſhal forfeit for euery ſuch offence ten ſhillings, to be employed on the charitable vſes aforeſaid.

An infected perſon commanded to keep his houſe, diſobeyeth.

And be it further enacted, That if any perſon or perſons infected, or being or dwelling in any houſe Infected, ſhal be by the Maior, Bailifs, Conſtable, or other head Officer of any City, Borough, Town corporate, priuiledged place, or Market Town, or by any Iuſtice of peace, Conſtable, Headborough, or other Officer of the County, (if any ſuch Infection be out of any City, Borough, Towne corporate, priuiledged place, or market Town) commanded or appointed, as aforeſaid, to keep his or their houſe, for auoyding of further Infection, & ſhall not withſtanding wilfully & contemptuouſly diſobey ſuch direction & appointment, offring & attempting to break & go abroad, & to reſiſt, or going abroad & reſiſting ſuch Keepers or Watchmen as ſhall be appointed, as aforeſaid, to ſee them kept in, That then it ſhall be lawfull for ſuch Watchmen, with violence to enforce them to keep their houſes. And if any hurt come by ſuch enforcement to ſuch Diſobedient perſons, That then the ſaid Keepers, Watchmen, and any other their Aſſiſtants, ſhall not be impeached therefore. And if any infected perſon as aforeſaid, ſo commanded to keep houſe, ſhal contrary to ſuch Commandement, wilfully and contemptuouſly go abroad, & ſhal conuerſe in company, hauing any Infectious Sore vpon him vncured, That then ſuch perſon & perſons ſhalbe taken, deemed, & adiudged as a Felon, & to ſuffer paines of Death, as in caſe of Felony. But if ſuch perſon ſhall not haue any ſuch Sore found about him, Then for his ſaid offence, to be puniſhed as a Vagabond in all reſpects ſhould, or ought to be, by the Statute made in the nine and thirtieth yeere of the Reigne of our late Souereigne Ladie Queene Elizabeth, for the puniſhment of rogues and vagabonds, And further to be bound to his or their good behauiour for one whole yeere.

Infected perſons, how Felons.

Prouided, That no attainder of Felonie by vertue of this Act, ſhall extend to any attainder or corruption of blood, or forfeiture of any Goods, Chattels, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments.

Attendants appointed by the infected

And be it further enacted by the Authoritie aforeſaid, That it ſhall be lawfull for Iuſtices of peace, Maiors, Bailifs, & other head Officers aforeſaid, to appoint within the ſeuerall Limits, Searchers, Watchmen, Examiners, Keepers, & Buriers for the perſons & places reſpectiuely infected as aforeſaid, & to miniſter vnto them Othes for the performance of their Offices of Searchers, Examiners, Watchmen, Keepers & Buryers, & giue them other directions as vnto them for the preſent neceſſity ſhall ſeeme good in their diſcretions. And this Act to continue no longer then vntill the end of the firſt Seſſion of the nert Parliament.

The Vniuerſities, Cathedrall Churches, Eaton, Winchester.

Prouided alwaies, and be it enacted by Authority of this preſent Parliament, That no Maior, Bailifs, head Officers, or any Iuſtices of peace, ſhall by force or pretert of any thing in this Act contained, doe or execute any thing before mentioned, within either the Vniuerſities of Cambridge or Oxford, or within any Cathedrall Church, or the Liberties or Precincts thereof, in this Realme of England, or within the Colledges of Eaton or Winchester, But that the Vicechancellor of either of the Vniuerſities for the time being, within either of the ſame reſpectiuely, & the Biſhop & Deane of euery ſuch Cathedrall Church, or one of them, within ſuch Cathedrall Church, & the Prouoſt or Warden of either of the ſaid Colledges within the ſame, ſhall haue all ſuch power & authoritie, & ſhall doe & execute all & euery ſuch Act & Acts, thing & things in this Act before mentioned, within their ſeuerall Precincts & Iuriſdictions aboueſaid, as wholly, abſolutely, & fully to all intents & purpoſes, as any Maior, Bailifs, head Offices, or Iuſtices of Peace within their ſeuerall Precincts and Iuriſdictions, may elſewhere by force of this Act doe and execute.

God ſaue the King.

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